CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) A method for facilitating a financial transaction over a first network comprising:

issuing a programmable memory device to a first user, wherein the programmable memory device contains at least the following formulating payment instructions, network address instructions for an issuer of the programmable memory device, a first user's digital certificate, a first user's financial account information, and an encryption program;

issuing software to a second user, wherein the software includes payment information of the second user including a second user's financial account information and further wherein the software is capable of interacting with the programmable memory device over the first network;

forming a connection between the programmable memory device and the software;

receiving across the connection the payment instructions;

adding the second user's payment information to the payment instructions;

routing the payment information and the payment instructions to the issuer utilizing the network address instructions; and

receiving the payment information and the payment instructions, wherein the issuer is capable of accessing at least one of the user's financial account information and a second user's financial account information.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the payment information of the second user further includes a second user's digital certificate.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first network is the Internet.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first network is a wireless network.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the network address instructions include at least one of a universal resource locator and a phone number.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further including authorizing a payment amount read from the payment instructions.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein authorizing a payment amount includes requesting via a second network authorization from a first user's financial institution that maintains the first user's financial account information.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the payment instructions further include an encrypted personal identification number recognizable by the first user's financial institution for accessing the first user's financial account information.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the second network is an ATM network.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the second network is the Internet.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the programmable memory device is a smart card.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first user's financial account information includes the first user's account identifier.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~13~~ 12, wherein the first user's account identifier includes at least one of an account type and an account number.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first user's financial account information includes the first user's financial institution routing number.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the encryption program contains a private key generated by the issuer.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the encryption program generates a private/public key pair within the programmable memory device.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the second user's financial account information includes the first user's account identifier.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the second user's account identifier includes at least one of an account type and an account number.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the second user's financial account information includes the second user's financial institution routing number.

20. (Original) A system for facilitating financial transactions over a network comprising:

a programmable memory device including at least an identifying certificate, payment information, network routing instructions and an encryption program;

a first server for offering at least one product via the network through a terminal;

a processor connected to the terminal for

(a) accessing the programmable memory device,

(b) retrieving the identifying certificate, the payment information, the network routing instructions and the encryption program off of the programmable memory device,

(c) attaching the identifying certificate to the payment information,

(d) encrypting the payment information with the attached identifying certificate via the encryption program, and

(e) sending the payment information with the attached identifying certificate across the network via the network routing instructions, and

a second server connected to the network for

(f) receiving the encrypted payment information with the attached identifying certificate,

(g) decrypting and reading the encrypted payment information with the attached identifying certificate,

(h) authorizing a payment requested via the payment information, and

(i) notifying the first server of the authorization.

21. (Original) A system according to claim 20, wherein the terminal is wireless.

22. (Original) A method for performing a financial transaction comprising:

presenting a customer with an amount due in response to a customer's product selection;

accepting a customer's programmable memory device within a reader portion of a terminal to facilitate payment of the amount due;

accessing a portion of the customer's programmable memory device containing payment information, wherein the payment information includes at least network address instructions for an issuer of the customer's programmable memory device, a digital certificate for identifying the customer, the customer's financial account information, an encryption program, and a customer memo balance containing updated customer account balances;

identifying the customer through the digital certificate;

receiving a customer's account selection;

checking a customer's memo balance for the selected account to determine if funds therein are sufficient to pay the amount due;

downloading the payment information from the programmable memory device to a memory portion of the terminal;

storing the payment information from the programmable memory device in a memory portion of the terminal for future processing of the financial transaction;

releasing the selected product to the customer;

uploading the payment information to the issuer of the programmable memory device for further processing and settlement of the financial transaction.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the terminal is wireless.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 22, further comprising:

receiving verification from the issuer of the programmable memory device that the financial transaction is authorized; and

updating a merchant transaction log in the memory portion of the terminal to reflect authorization of the financial transaction by the issuer of the programmable memory device.

25. (Original) A system for performing a financial transaction comprising:

means for presenting a customer with an amount due in response to a customer's product selection;

means for accepting a customer's programmable memory device within a reader portion of a terminal to facilitate payment of the amount due;

means for accessing a portion of the customer's programmable memory device containing payment information, wherein the payment information includes at least network address instructions for an issuer of the customer's programmable memory device, a digital certificate for identifying the customer, the customer's financial account information, an encryption program, and a customer memo balance containing updated customer account balances;

means for identifying the customer through the digital certificate;

means for receiving a customer's account selection;

means for checking a customer's memo balance for the selected account to determine if funds therein are sufficient to pay the amount due;

means for downloading the payment information from the programmable memory device to a memory portion of the terminal;

means for storing the payment information from the programmable memory device in a memory portion of the terminal for future processing of the financial transaction;

means for releasing the selected product to the customer;

means for uploading the payment information to the issuer of the programmable memory device for further processing and settlement of the financial transaction.

26. (Original) The system according to claim 25, wherein the terminal is wireless.

27. (Original) The system according to claim 25, further comprising:

means for receiving verification from the issuer of the programmable memory device that the financial transaction is authorized; and

means for updating a merchant transaction log in the memory portion of the terminal to reflect authorization of the financial transaction by the issuer of the programmable memory device.

28. (Original) A system for facilitating a financial transaction comprising:

a programmable memory device issued to a user including

(a) at least one processor;

(b) a digital certificate for identifying the user;

(c) the user's financial account information;

(d) network addressing instructions for at least the issuer of the programmable memory device; and

(e) an encryption program for encrypting at least (b) and (c);

a terminal for reading information from the programmable memory device to facilitate a payment from at least one of a user's financial accounts;

a server for receiving information from the terminal read from the programmable memory device and authorizing payment from at least one of the user's financial accounts.